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B A G H D A D P R E S S

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Embassy of the U.S.A.
Baghdad, Iraq.

Friday, January 5, 1951.

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SENATE DEBATE ON THE SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

Senate held a meeting yesterday to debate the Speech from the Throne. Opening the session, HE (Jamil Al-Madfai' eulogized the Queen and requested the Majlis to observe a 5-minute silence.

Senator Abdul Mahdi then took the floor and said that since the Premier is not present, he would like to defer his statement until a further opportunity, although HE Mustafa Al-Umari told him that he was authorized to answer his statement in the absence of the Premier.

Four speakers took the floor during this debate including HE Towfiq As-Suwaidi who said in part:

"It is his duty to speak because he believed that this house is the supreme organizer of the State affairs and so did not want to miss this opportunity lest public opinion would feel that we are disinterested in the country's affairs."

Speaking of Iraq's attitude towards the International situation, he said: "The Iraqi Government cannot draw up any plans which would ward off danger from the world, but it can, however, contribute to this end in checking any danger to Iraq. I remember five months ago I took up this matter with the Allies, I mean, England and America, pointing out to them Iraq's fears and anxiety over its boundaries and security. I tried to get some assurance from them in this connection and to understand what measures they have taken to assuring our security or the security of the Arab East from the North. However, until I left the premiership, I did not get anything assuring from them and I tried to understand something after I left the Premiership, but I failed. Perhaps the present Government may be able to shed light on this obscure point, if it has been able to secure any assurance in regard to the prevailing position in the North.

"Iraq lies on the crossroads of three continents, with vast oil resources, and has two or three countries which also have oil, as its neighbors. Time will show whether this oil wealth will be a source of a disaster to the country, for danger comes from that side. Therefore, Iraq and the Arab

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States should seek a way out that would ensure their security.

"I hope the government will take the necessary steps to ensure the security of this country from this side. If Iraq does not constitute a strong force, enjoying wealth and prosperity, it would not have any reflection on the international situation. Also the Arab States should be in possession of these elements in order that they may have a revered position in the Arab world and in the international situation.

"It appears from my long experience that there are two countries which should grasp their duty towards the Arab policy, these are Egypt and Iraq. If those two States reach an understanding between them, it will be easy to reach a similar understanding with the other Arab States. However, I have always endeavored to realize this objective.

"Iraq had lots of opportunities, but we did not choose the appropriate time to make use of it. But these are still open to us to prove that we are earnest in discharging our duties towards the Arab policy, and I hope that there will remain no cause for our delay in closing the gaps created by the enemies to Arab existence.

"At the first opportunity still wide open, the Arab States hesitated in concluding the Arab Collective Security Pact. I believe that there is no reason for Iraq to fall back, but on the contrary it should demonstrate its readiness to work for cooperation amongst the Arab States."

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Replying to HE Tawfiq As-Suwaidi's statement about Iraq's foreign policy, HE Mustafa Al-Umari said: "There is no difference in the views expressed by HE Tawfiq As-Suwaidi and the policy now being pursued by the government."

The text of the reply to the Speech from the Throne was then put to vote and passed. (Al-Sha'b)

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ATOM BOMBS IN IRAQ

According to Jordanian papers, well informed circles say that some Atom bombs have been stored in one of the British camps in Iraq. (Al-Akhbar)

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